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Speech to Parliamentary Friends of Landcare
10 May 2016

I was asked to talk about why I wanted to become a Local Landcare Coordinator, reflect on my impressions so far, and share my thoughts for the future of the program.

Before taking up my role as a coordinator in Nambucca Valley, I had a secure and promising career in the Australian Government.

But In my experience working across a range of natural resource management and environmental policy areas, the best projects, the projects with the most durable and meaningful outcomes, were always driven by engaged, connected and empowered communities.

Although I had these skills and a strong passion for natural resource management, when I was working in government it was difficult to see long-lasting change from my actions.

So when I saw the Local Landcare Coordinator position advertised, I nearly fell off my chair and when I was offered the position, my excitement mixed with fear as I thought 'How on Earth will I survive off 11.25hrs of work per week?'

But I took a chance, and left a stable career, with a secure future to move to Bowraville, a small town on the mid-north coast, and I couldn't be more excited.

At our Local Landcare Coordinator training workshop in Stockton several weeks ago, I was inspired and humbled by the depth of experience, expertise and passion in Landcare.

I was so motivated to see how it could not only be a professional career, but a social movement that I can be part of for life, a movement that brings together people from diverse backgrounds with a common vision for the future. It was incredibly powerful.

I left workshop with a strong sense of confidence in the connections I had made not only with experienced coordinators who held a wealth of knowledge, but also with new coordinators, like me, many of whom were young and brought fresh ideas, enthusiasm and energy to the movement.

I am extremely excited about the opportunities in our region. I'm thrilled to be able to bring my knowledge of state and national priorities to help align local action, and support landholders in accessing resources and services.

I'm also very keen to engage young people through the many schools in our valley, improve our appeal to tourists through enhancing our natural spaces, and work with our other Landcare groups

in my region and across the state, and Local Land Services to share ideas, and collaborate on delivering innovative extension and community building programmes.

I joined the public service because I wanted to be part of something bigger than myself by improving our environment and production landscapes. Through my position as Local Landcare Coordinator at Nambucca Valley, which has been made possible by funding from the NSW State Government, I truly feel that I can follow my passion and contribute to my community as part of a movement with an inspiring history and a very exciting future.